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**Government of the District of Columbia**



**Office of the Deputy Mayor for  
Public Safety and Justice**

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Testimony of  
**Edward D. Reiskin**  
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

*FY 2007 Budget Hearing on the  
Consolidated Laboratory Facility*

Committee on the Judiciary  
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chair  
Council of the District of Columbia

March 27, 2006

Room 500  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
4:30 P.M.

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Good afternoon Chairperson Mendelson and members of the Committee. I am Ed Reiskin, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief statement on the status of the Consolidated Laboratory Facility. MPD will provide separate testimony on the Forensics Laboratory Technician Training Program, which is developing in-house forensics expertise that will be housed in the Consolidated Lab.

The proposed Consolidated Laboratory Facility will be a state-of-the art facility that will house the Metropolitan Police Department Forensics Laboratory, the entire operations of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Department of Health Public Health Laboratory. The Consolidated Lab will serve a wide range of District forensics and other investigative needs. This capital project is housed under the Office of Property Management, the implementing agency, which has coordinated inter-agency planning for the Lab and will be responsible for managing construction.

The Consolidated Laboratory Facility will provide the District a major opportunity to enhance and expand existing agency functions and create new capabilities and expertise in areas currently unavailable in the District. Among the significant benefits of the proposed Lab are: the enhanced capability to solve crimes through expedited, in-house forensics analysis and direct access to MPD and OCME investigations; improved and expedited detection of and response to biological or chemical agents and communicable diseases; state-of-the-art facilities to support death investigations by OCME; and greater coordination, communication, and standardization among the three agencies both day-to-day and in the event of major crimes and emergencies. This project also will address the inadequacy of the existing facilities that serve these critical functions. Currently these agency functions are either housed in outmoded facilities with limited space or lack their own laboratory facilities.

We have made significant progress in programming and other planning for the Consolidated Lab. During FY 2005 we completed a Program Study that calls for a 300,000 SF facility, as well as a Site Selection Study. We are close to selecting the final site for the Lab. During this fiscal year we are continuing to refine our plans for the Lab's operations, and are finalizing the development of a design contract by April 2006. We plan to initiate construction in the fall of 2007, with completion expected by fall 2009. The Mayor has proposed \$5 million in FY 2007 District capital funds for the Consolidated Lab, supplemented by a federal request for \$25 million. The Mayor has also proposed \$75 million in local funds both in FY 2008 and FY 2009 to finance the bulk of the construction costs, the balance of which are proposed for federal funding. To date, the Lab project has received a total of \$17,265,000—\$4,265,000 in local funding and \$13,000,000 in federal funding. Beyond the work already accomplished, these funds will support completion of the facility's design.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on the District's progress in implementing the Consolidated Laboratory Facility project. I am available to answer the Committee's questions on this project.